

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 EA-10 EUR-12 L-03 DLOS-09

SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /081 W

-----125919 070602Z /16

R 062113Z SEP 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO CINCPACREP GUAM

SECSTATE WASHDC 3212

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CINCPACREP PASS HICOM

DEPARTMENT PASS INTERIOR FOR OTA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, PINT, UNTC, TQ

SUBJECT: UN VISITING MISSION INQUIRIES RE ALLEGATIONS OF

- ELECTION IRREGULARITIES

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MR. ROBIN BYATT (UK), CHAIRMAN OF THE RECENT UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY TO OBSERVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM IN WHICH HE RAISES TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE IRREGULARITIES IN THE FINANCING OF THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN. THESE MATTERS WERE RAISED BY THE VISITING MISSION WHILE IT WAS STILL IN THE TRUST TERRITORY BUT THE INFORMATION PROMISED HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF A REPLY COULD BE RECEIVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER THAT THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE DEALT WITH PROPERLY IN THE REPORT THE VISITING MISSION MUST SUBMIT TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

2. AN EXCERPT FROM MR. BYATT'S LETTER CONTAINING HIS REQUESTS FOLLOWS:

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- BEGIN TEXT: THERE ARE TWO OTHER QUESTIONS OUTSTANDING ON WHICH IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION FOR THE MISSION. THEY RELATE TO THE FINANCING OF THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND THE PALAU DISTRICTS RESPECTIVELY. THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS OF 30 MAY CARRIED A REPORT ALLEGING

THAT THE CAMPAIGN ORGANIZED BY THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAD BEEN IN PART FINANCED BY A LOAN FROM NAURU. WHEN THE MISSION WERE IN SAIPAN ON 24 JUNE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. CRALEY AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, THIS SUBJECT WAS RAISED. WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE WERE EVEN THEN LOOKING INTO THE MATTER. WE ASKED TO BE INFORMED IN DUE COURSE OF THE OUTCOME OF ENQUIRIES, PARTICULARLY WHETHER SUCH A LOAN HAD BEEN MADE, AND, IF SO, WHETHER ANY INFRINGEMENT OF TRUST TERRITORY LAW WAS INVOLVED AND, IF SO, WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN. THE QUESTION OF THIS ALLEGED LOAN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FORMALLY DRAWN TO THE MISSION'S ATTENTION IN A LETTER DATED 29 JUNE FROM THE ACTING LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

- SECONDLY, THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WHO WERE PRESENT IN THE PALAU DISTRICT WERE QUESTIONED ABOUT THE ALLEGED FACT THAT \$16,000 APPROPRIATED BY THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FOR THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY TO THOSE CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. A CABLE DATED 6 JULY FROM THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, PALAU TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SAIPAN RELAYED, IN ITS THIRD PARAGRAPH, A REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS. A CABLE DATED 7 JULY FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SAIPAN TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR IN PALAU INFORMED US THAT THE MATTER WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND THE PALAU DISTRICT ATTORNEY. WE ASSURE THE MISSION THAT AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE IS FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. END TEXT. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, ELECTIONS, TEXTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, TRUSTEESHIPS (UN)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03472
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780363-1163
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780996/aaaadbfn.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d166956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1525463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN VISITING MISSION INQUIRIES RE ALLEGATIONS OF - ELECTION IRREGULARITIES
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, PINT, TQ, UK, UNTC, (BYATT, ROBIN)
To: CINCPACREP GUAM STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d166956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014